Wukchumni dialect

Wukchumni (Wikchamni) is a dialect of Tule-Kaweah Yokuts that was historically spoken by the Wukchumni people of the east fork of the Kaweah River of California.

Marie Wilcox, born 1933, is currently the only remaining native speaker of the language.[3][4]

Wukchumni	
Wikchamni	
Region	California
Ethnicity	Wukchumni
Native speakers	1 [1]
Language family	Yok-Utian ▪ Yokuts ▪ Nim ▪ Tule-Kaweah Yokuts ▪ **Wukchumni**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	–
Glottolog	wikc1234 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/wikc1234)[2]

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Phonology

The following tables are based on Gamble (1978).[5]

Consonants

Marie Wilcox in 2016

		Bilabial	Dental/ Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	voiceless	p	t	ʈ	k	ʔ
	aspirated	pʰ	tʰ	ʈʰ	kʰ	
	ejective	pʼ	tʼ	ʈʼ	kʼ	
Affricate	voiceless			t͡ʃ		
	aspirated			t͡ʃʰ		
	ejective			t͡ʃʼ		
Fricative			s	ʃ	x	h
Nasal	plain	m	n		ŋ	
	glottalized	mˀ	nˀ		ŋˀ	
Approximant	plain	w	l	j		
	glottalized	wˀ	lˀ	jˀ		

Allophones of /ʃ, x/ include [ʒ̊, xʷ].

Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
Close	i iː	ɨ ɨː	u uː
Mid	e eː	ə əː	o oː
Open		a aː	

A long vowel /eː/ can be lowered to [æː] when occurring before an /n/. The central vowels /ɨ/ and /ə/ are partially rounded.

All phonetic short vowel allophones include [ɪ], [ɛ], [ɨ̞], [ɜ], [ʌ], [ọ], [ʊ].

Status

Wukchumni is categorized as 8a or "moribund" on the Expanded Graded Intergenerational Disruption Scale.[6][7]

Revitalization efforts

In the early 2000s, Marie Wilcox, aided by her daughter Jennifer Malone, began compiling a Wukchumni dictionary.

Wilcox and Malone currently hold classes teaching beginner and intermediate Wukchumni to interested tribal members.[8][9]

Efforts to revive Wukchumni have additionally been organized through the Master-Apprentice Language Learning Program.[7]

Possibility of more native speakers

Destiny Treglown, Marie Wilcox's great-granddaughter is raising her son, Oliver, as a Wukchumni speaker. If Oliver reaches fluency, he will become the only other native speaker of the language and the first in four generations.[10][11]

References

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11. *Wukchumni: Four Generations* (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krq4nsCa70Y), retrieved 2019-08-30

External links

- English/Wukchumni dictionary (http://cla.berkeley.edu/item.php?bndlid=2534)

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